



Histories of liberation struggle

The black resistance movement and
the undermining of apartheid

Events in freedom struggle I

- Last armed tribal uprisings 1876/1907
- 1884 Indian NIC formed by Gandhi
- 1903 coloured organisation
- 1912/1923 Founding of the ANC
- 1920s ICU general African "trade union"
- 1940s modern black branch unions
- 1944 ANC Youth League founded



Events in freedom struggle II

- 1946 African mine strike subdued
- 1949 ANC Programme of Action
- 1955 Congress Alliance Freedom Charter
- 1956-1961 Treason Trial against 156
- 1959 Pan Africanist Congress separation
- 1960 Sharpeville nationwide protests
- 1961 Last open protests, armed struggle



Events in freedom struggle III

- 1960s Domestic suppression, exile organisations, sabotage
- 1969 ANC's Morogoro Conference
- 1973 Durban strikes
- 1970s New independent trade unions
- 1972 Black Consciousness Movement
- 1976 Soweto uprising



Events in freedom struggle IV

- 1983 Formation of UDF umbrella
- 1985 ANC's Kabwe Conference
- 1985 Joining of unions in COSATU
- 1985-90 Stay at homes, state of emergencies, third force violence, SA ungovernable
- 1991 Formalised negotiations



Periodisation of struggle I

- **1652 - 1910: Armed resistance against colonisation**
- **1910 - 1942: Civil disobedience and sporadic class struggles**
- **1942 - 1960: Working class actions and political mass movement build-up**
- **1960 - 1973: Movements in exile and sabotage**



Periodisation of struggle II

- **1973 - 1990: Trade unions and political mass movements, SA ungovernable**
- **1990 - 1994: Build-up of normal political opposition and negotiations**
- **1994 - : ANC-lead government (GNU) after power sharing and free elections**

Only after 1976 were the resistance struggle in an overall offensive





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